

REMARKS

Claims 12-15 are pending. Claims 1-5, 10, and 11 have been canceled. Claims 6-9 have been withdrawn. Claims 12-15 have been added. Support for claim 12 can be found in the specification from page 8, line 34 to page 9, line 10 and on page 9, line 35 to page 10, line 19 with reference to Fig. 2A and Fig. 3. Support for claim 13 can be found in the specification on page 9, lines 18-22 and in Figs. 2A and 3. Support for claims 14 and 15 can be found in the specification on page 13, lines 19-28 and in Figs. 10, 11, and 12.

Claims 1-5, 10, and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takashi (JP 10-41492). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-5, 10, and 11 have been canceled. New claim 12 requires, in part, a solid-state image device comprising a solid-state image element and a package having first and second side ends. Claim 12 further requires that at least one corner of the package has a recessed portion having an "L" shape when being seen from the upper surface side, and that each of the first side ends of the package has a recessed portion having a "U" shape when being seen from the upper surface side. End faces, including reference end faces having a linear shape when being seen from the upper surface side, define the recessed portion having an "L" shape and the recessed portion having a "U" shape.

The rejection cites Takashi as disclosing a solid-state image device, comprising a package including at least one corner that has a recessed portion (Takashi, Fig. 3, el. 9a), wherein the recessed portion is defined by an end face including at least two linear portions observed when being seen from an upper surface side of the package. The rejection further cites Takashi as disclosing at least two recessed portions (Takashi, Fig. 3, el. 9a) formed at least at one selected from two adjacent side ends of the package.

However, even if the board 9 in Fig. 3 of Takashi could be considered a package as required by claim 12, a point that Applicants do not concede, the board does not have a recessed portion having a "U" shape on each of a first side ends of the package. Furthermore, since the positioning of the solid-state device in Takashi is carried out using pin 17 as shown in Figure 3, there is no reason to add a "U" shaped recessed portion to the board 9. Moreover, as mentioned on page 3, lines 3-8 of the present application, a package positioned using pins cannot be reduced

in size. The positioning accuracy of the package is also reduced due to the need to make the recessed portions large enough to insert the pins. The size of the package recited in claim 12 is capable of being reduced because the need for receiving pins is obviated. Therefore, Takashi would not lead a person having skill in the art to the invention of claim 12. New claim 13 depends from claim 12. Therefore, claim 13 is allowable for at least the same reasons.

New claim 14 recites, in part, a camera comprising a lens block and a solid-state image device according to new claim 12. The lens block has projections coming into contact with the reference end face in the recessed "L" shaped portion and the recessed "U" shaped portion along the shape of each reference end face. The rejection cites Takashi as disclosing a camera comprising a solid-state image device as recited in canceled claim 1 and a lens block having at least two projections (Takashi, Fig. 3, el. 17) coming into contact with the two linear portions of the recessed corner portion of the package.

However, as noted above, Takashi fails to disclose or suggest the solid-state device as recited in new claim 12. Therefore, new claim 14 is allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to new claim 12. Furthermore, Takashi fails to disclose or suggest lens block projections coming into contact with the reference end face in both the recessed "L" shaped portion and the recessed "U" shaped portion. Rather, Takashi discloses a lens block projections coming into contact with an end face in a recessed "L" shaped portion. Moreover, Takashi fails to disclose or suggest lens block portions coming into contact with either recessed portion along the shape of the reference end face. A visual inspection indicates that the projection 17 in Fig. 3 of Takashi will not contact the entire reference end face of the recessed "L" shaped portion. Therefore, Takashi would not lead a person having skill in the art to the invention of new claim 14.

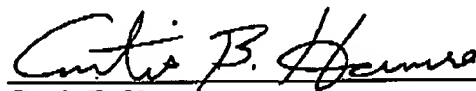
New claim 15 recites, in part, a camera comprising a solid-state device according to new claim 13 and a lens block. New claim 13 depends from new claim 12. Therefore, new claim 15 is allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to new claim 12. Furthermore, the lens block recited in new claim 15 has the same limitations as the lens block recited in new claim 14. Therefore, new claim 15 is allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to new claim 14. As claims 12-15 are allowable, claims 6-9 should be reinstated and allowed as well.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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